

FY17 City of Somerville Water and Sewer Base Charges

On July 1, 2016, the City of Somerville Water & Sewer Department instituted a base monthly water connection charge and a sewer connection charge to support needed critical repairs and updates to our water and sewer system. The amounts of the base charges are determined by the size of a property's water meter. The meter size categories are those used by the American Water Works Association, which better aligns City practices with industry guidelines. **It should be noted that the vast majority of residential accounts fall into the lowest base charge category.** Charges will remain level over five years.

Water Base Charge for Residential Customers with Standard Connections (1 inch or less): \$5 per month

The vast majority of residential water customers have water meters up to or including 1 inch in size. The water base charge for this category is \$5 per month. Bills are sent three times per year (every four months). Thus the total water base charge will be \$20 per bill.

Water Base Charge for Residential Customers with Larger Connections (Over 1 inch):

Roughly 40 residential customers out of the city's 12,500 residential customers have water meters larger than 1 inch. For this category, the water base charge is determined by the meter size as shown in the chart to the right. If you do not know the size of your connection, please review a previous or current water bill or contact the Water Department.

Monthly Water Base Charge for Residential and Commercial Based on Connection Size	
METER SIZE	MONTHLY
5/8"	\$5
3/4"	\$5
1"	\$5
1-1/2"	\$10
2"	\$16
3"	\$30
4"	\$50
6+"	\$100

Water Base Charge for Commercial Customers:

The water base charges are the same for commercial accounts, but will continue to be billed every two months, rather than every four months. Thus the appropriate base charge will be applied twice per billing cycle. So, for example, a commercial customer with a ¾ inch connection will be charged \$5 per month, or \$10 per billing cycle (two month bill).

*Hundred cubic feet is equal to 748 gallons.

Sewer Base Charge for Residential Customers with Standard Connections (1 inch or less): \$10 per month

The vast majority of residential water customers have water meters up to or including 1 inch in size. The sewer base charge for these customers will be \$10 per month. Bills are sent three-times per year (every four months). Thus the total sewer base charge will be \$40 per bill.

Water Base Charge for Residential Customers with Larger Connections (Over 1 inch):

Roughly 40 residential customers out of the city's 12,500 residential customers have water meters larger than 1 inch. For these customers, the water base charge is determined by the meter size as shown in the chart to the right.

Monthly Residential & Commercial Base Sewer Charge Based on Connection Size	
METER SIZE	MONTHLY
5/8"	\$10
¾"	\$10
1"	\$10
1-1/2"	\$20
2"	\$32
3"	\$60
4"	\$100
6+"	\$200

Water Base Charge for Commercial Customers:

The water base charges are the same for commercial accounts, but will continue to be billed every two months, rather than every four months. Thus the appropriate base charge will be applied twice per billing cycle. So, for example, a commercial customer with a ¾ inch connection will be charged \$10 per month, or \$20 per billing cycle (two month bill).

The Water and Sewer rates for FY2017 are listed below.

Water rates remain level without an increase from FY2016. Sewer rates reflect a 5% increase from last year due in part to a \$960,000 increase in fees charged to the City by MWRA.

FY2017 RESIDENTIAL WATER AND SEWER RATES (per hundred cubic feet*)			
USAGE	WATER	SEWER	COMBINED
0-13	\$4.14	7.43	\$11.57
14-67	\$5.97	9.49	\$15.46
68-133	\$6.26	9.95	\$16.21
OVER 133	\$6.50	10.30	\$16.80

FY2017 COMMERCIAL WATER AND SEWER RATES (per hundred cubic feet*)			
USAGE	WATER	SEWER	COMBINED
0-10	\$4.14	7.43	\$11.57
11-100	\$5.97	9.49	\$15.46
101-200	\$6.26	9.95	\$16.21
OVER 200	\$6.50	10.30	\$16.80

*Hundred cubic feet is equal to 748 gallons.